

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): HIROI, ET AL.

Serial No.: Not assigned

Filed: November 8, 2001

For: PATTERN INSPECTION METHOD AND APPARATUS

Group: Not assigned

Examiner: Not assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 8, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 16-27 without prejudice to the right to file such claims in a properly filed divisional application.

REMARKS

Claims 16-27 have been canceled without prejudice to the right to file such claims in a properly filed divisional

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application, noting that such divisional application is being
filed on even date herewith.

Entry of the preliminary amendments and examination of
the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an
extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any
shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this
paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account
No. 01-2135 (501.40830X00) and please credit any excess fees
to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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